

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

CAROLYN D. SCHOFIELD,

Plaintiff,

vs.

CAROLYN W. COLVIN, Acting
Commissioner of Social Security,

Defendant.

Case No. 2:16-cv-01044-JCM-GWF

ORDER

Plaintiff's Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (#1)

This matter is before the Court on Plaintiff's Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (ECF No. 1), filed on May 9, 2016.

BACKGROUND

Plaintiff alleges a claim against the Social Security Administration (SSA), challenging its denial of social security disability benefits. Plaintiff alleges that at all times relevant to this action, she was disabled as defined by the Social Security Act. Plaintiff claims that the Social Security Commissioner, initially and upon reconsideration, denied her requests for disability insurance benefits. Plaintiff states that she timely requested review of the ALJ's decision with the Appeals Council, which was denied on March 16, 2016. Plaintiff now seeks judicial review of that final agency decision.

DISCUSSION

I. Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis*

Plaintiff filed this instant action and attached a financial affidavit to her application and complaint as required by 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a). Having reviewed Plaintiff's financial affidavit pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915, the Court finds that she is unable to pre-pay the filing fee. Therefore, Plaintiff's request to proceed *in forma pauperis* in federal court is granted.

II. Complaint

Plaintiff brings suit against the SSA alleging she was wrongfully denied social security disability benefits. Federal courts only have jurisdiction to conduct judicial review of the SSA's final decisions. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 405(g); *Klemm v. Astrue*, 543 F.3d 1139, 1144 (9th Cir. 2008); *see also Cilifano v. Sanders*, 430 U.S. 99, 107–09 (1977). Plaintiff appears to have fully exhausted her administrative remedies with the SSA. The Court will therefore allow Plaintiff's complaint to proceed as a petition for judicial review of a final agency decision. Accordingly,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Plaintiff's Application to Proceed *In Forma Pauperis* (ECF No. 1) is **granted**. Plaintiff shall not be required to pre-pay the full filing fee of four hundred dollars (\$400.00).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court shall file the Complaint (ECF No. 1-1).

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court shall serve the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration by sending a copy of summons and Complaint by certified mail to: (1) Office of the Regional Chief Counsel, Region IX, Social Security Administration, 160 Spear Street, Suite 899, San Francisco, California 94105, and (2) the Attorney General of the United States, Department of Justice, 950 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington DC 20530.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Clerk of the Court shall issue summons to the United States Attorney for the District of Nevada, and deliver the summons and Complaint to the U.S. Marshal for service.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that Defendant shall have **sixty (60) days** from the date of service to file her answer or responsive pleading to Plaintiff's Complaint in this case.

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GEORGE FOLEY, JR.
United States Magistrate Judge